



#### WILDLIFE

Many types of animals use the Pond, and it is up to all of us to provide them with a healthy habitat. Shorebirds can be seen in large numbers, especially at low tide in autumn as they eat invertebrates (worms, crustaceans and the like) and fatten up for the long migration south. As many as 14 species and over 400 birds have been observed at one time. Striped bass travel in on the incoming tides and can be seen chasing mummichogs across the flats.

#### WATER QUALITY

The Pond has suffered from poor water quality due to human sewage, sediments, oil and a host of other pollutants flowing into it. Last year a diesel spill occurred on the Bypass and flowed into the Pond at this site. Water quality depends on the sum of water inflows around the Pond and flushing by the tides. Two water quality stations were initiated by the Great Bay Coast Watch in 1997. This data, along with a shoreline survey by the Advocates and the Watch, spurred NH DES and the City of Portsmouth to identify and correct sewerage entering the Pond.

#### STEWARDSHIP

Everyone living in the area has a stake in a healthy productive environment. As you paddle here and elsewhere in the Pond, observe the shoreline. Is it gradual with many different plants? Or is it abrupt and covered with yard waste and refuse? While owners of shorefront property have a closer association with the Pond and direct responsibilities, everyone working or living in the watershed is connected to the Pond by water and could benefit from it being cleaner and healthier.

#### HODGSON BROOK AND WATERSHED


A new program to understand and improve water quality in Hodgeson Brook, the major freshwater tributary to the Pond, is underway. Rain falling anywhere in this watershed (see the map on the back) flows to the Brook and then into the Pond here at Bartlett Street. Where the rain falls, it interacts with anything it touches and can carry all kinds of pollutants toward the Pond. The Advocates are working with NH DES and other partners to reduce pollution that enters the stream, and to study ways to restore the stream edges and improve wildlife habitat.

#### HABITAT RESTORATION

Human activities have degraded this urban waterfront, and marsh was filled for the rail lines many years ago. The acre of green salt marsh you see before you was created in 1993 as mitigation for Port expansion, and the adjacent banks of this shoreline were revegetated with Advocates' help. New Franklin School students have added 3,000 ribbed mussels to the marsh to improve habitat and water quality. Restoring natural habitats will make the Pond a healthier place for wildlife and people, as well as more beautiful.

#### HISTORY

Inhabited by colonists since the early 1600s, this area has seen shipbuilding, rope walks, textile and other manufacturing industries, tanning, salt storage, rail and ship transportation, and fish processing. The age of the gravestones here in the North Burying Ground attest to its long use. The industrial era of this side of the Pond began in the mid 1800s with the construction of the railroad and steam-powered mills — one was six stories tall! As you paddle the Pond, look for commercial uses mentioned here, as some are still in operation.

PADDLE  on the POND

Start Here!